

feeding a Fischer-Tropsch derived paraffinic hydrocarbon feedstock comprising heavy paraffinic hydrocarbons and, optionally, light paraffinic hydrocarbons, medium paraffinic hydrocarbons or a mixture thereof, into a distillation column;

C1

operating the distillation column to produce usable wax products; and

withdrawing from the distillation column an overhead stream, a bottom stream comprising usable wax products, and at least one side stream comprising usable wax products.

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2. (amended) A process according to Claim 1, wherein the Fischer-Tropsch derived paraffinic hydrocarbon feedstock comprises, in addition to the heavy paraffinic hydrocarbons [and] which comprise hydrocarbon molecules with carbon numbers or carbon atoms in the range  $C_{15}$  and greater, the medium paraffinic hydrocarbons comprising hydrocarbon molecules with carbon numbers in the range  $C_{10}$  to  $C_{80}$  and the light paraffinic hydrocarbons comprising hydrocarbon molecules with carbon numbers in the range  $C_{35}$  and less.

8. (Twice amended) A process according to Claim 1, wherein the distillation column contains structured packing as a distillation medium, with the structured packing having a surface area, in  $m^2$ , to volume, in  $m^3$ , ratio of 125:1 to 750:1.

C2

9. (amended) A process according to Claim 8, wherein a plurality of the side streams are provided, with the distillation column including a draw point or zone for each of the side streams as well as for the overhead and bottom streams, and with a plurality of distillation stages being provided in the distillation column, with each stage comprising the structured packing.